GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2220
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Rail Neer Plant
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail Neer plants are operated by the railways;

(b) if so, the production capacity thereof;

(c) whether the production quantity is adequate to meet the demand;

(d) if not, the names of the private companies from where bottled water is received along with the guidelines laid down in this regard, zone-wise;

(e) whether a large number of complaints are being received with regard to quality of drinking water being sold by private companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a): Yes, Madam. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been mandated by Ministry of Railways to set up Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) Plants for production of PDW under the brand name "Rail Neer". Six Rail Neer PDW plants are presently operational, out of which four plants at Nangloi (Delhi) (2003), Danapur (Patna) (2004), Palur (Chennai) (2011), Ambernath (Maharashtra) (2014) have been set up by IRCTC from its own funds. Two more plants, one at Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) (2015) and another one at Parassala (Trivandrum) (2016) have been set up by IRCTC under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
(b) & (c): IRCTC at present produces approximately 7.6 lakh litre of Rail Neer PDW per day against requirement of 25 lakh litre PDW per day.
(d): In instances of non-availability/short supply of Rail Neer PDW, Zonal Railways have been delegated powers to shortlist and empanel Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved PDW brands of private companies for sale at railway stations and on trains. The names of the companies which have been empanelled by the various Railway zones to supply and sell their BIS approved brands of PDW in trains and at stations are Appended.
(e) & (f): As only shortlisted BIS approved PDW brands of the empanelled private companies have been permitted for supply/sale on mobile units and at Railway stations through authorised static units, there has been hardly any complaint across Zonal Railways with regard to quality of the BIS approved PDW supplied to passengers. However, whenever complaints of unauthorised supply/sale of inferior quality non-approved brands of PDW are received, suitable action, including imposition of monetary fines, is taken as per rules against the defaulting licensees depending on the gravity of the lapse.
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